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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,598	02/02/2001	Fumiyasu Hirai	010105	6246

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EXAMINER

ANDRES, JANET L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/773,598	HIRAI ET AL.
	Examiner Janet L. Andres	Art Unit 1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 31 March 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4774322 (Seyedin et al., 1988), 4931548 (Lucas et al., 1990), or U.S. patent 5322933 (Davies et al., 1994) in view of U.S. patent 5,231,178 (Holtz et al., 1993) and further in view of U.S. patent 6270994 (Miyazono et al., priority date 1997).

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

The '322 patent, '548 patent, and the '933 patent each teach purification of TGF-beta by reversed-phase chromatography using a C18 column. TGF-beta is absorbed onto the column and then eluted with an acetonitrile gradient. See column 6, lines 18-44 of the '322 patent, column 2, line 54, column 3, lines 65-68, and column 4, lines 1-3 of the '548 patent, and column 3, lines

44-61 of the '933 patent. A C18 column comprises octadecane bound to silicon and is thus an adsorbent comprising a compound having a log P value of at least 2.5 bound to a carrier. These patents fail to teach the use of cellulose as a carrier and fail to provide a motivation for removing TGF- β from bodily fluids. The '178 patent teaches that another growth factor, IGF-1, can be also be purified using hydrophobic chromatography and teaches that the supports for hydrophobic compounds may include cellulose (column 12, line 13). The '944 patent teaches many conditions involve TGF-beta, including liver, kidney, and lung fibrosis, as well as scarring and atherosclerosis (column 20, lines 53-65), and teaches that it would be beneficial to reduce TGF-beta activity in these conditions (column 20, line 44-48). It would thus be *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the '322 patent, the '548 patent, or the '933 patent with those of the '178 patent and the '994 patent to use octadecane or a similar hydrophobic compound on a cellulose support to remove TGF-beta from body fluids. One of ordinary skill would be motivated to do so because the '944 patent teaches that there are many conditions that are adversely affected by TGF-beta, the '322 patent, the '548 patent, and the '933 patent teach that hydrophobic interaction is an efficient means of adsorbing TGF-beta, and the '178 patent teaches that cellulose is a suitable support for hydrophobic compounds.

NO CLAIM IS ALLOWED.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet Andres, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 305-0557. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler, Ph.D., can be reached at (703) 308-6564. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306 or (703) 872-9307 for after final communications.

Communications via internet mail regarding this application, other than those under U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [yvonne.eyler@uspto.gov].

All Internet email communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark Office on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Janet Andres, Ph.D.
September 10, 2003



JANET ANDRES
PATENT EXAMINER